



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

6. *Mesure des capacités intellectuelle et énergétique* par CH. HENRY, avec remarque additionnelle par E. WAXWEILER. Bruxelles et Leipzig, 1906. pp. 75.
7. *Origine Polyphyletique, homotypie, et non-comparabilité des sociétés animales* par R. PETRUCCI. Bruxelles et Leipzig, 1906. pp. 126.
- Leib und Seele, Darstellung und Kritik der neueren Theorien des Verhältnisses zwischen physischem und psychischem Dasein*, von DR. RUDOLF EISLER. Johann Ambrosius Barth, Leipzig, 1906. pp. 217.
- Outline of the Vedanta System of Philosophy according to Shankara*, by PAUL DEUSSEN. Translated by J. H. Woods and C. B. Runkle. The Grafton Press, New York, 1906. pp. 45.
- Space and Geometry, in the light of physiological, psychological and physical inquiry*, by DR. ERNEST MACH. Translated from the German by Thomas J. McCormack. The Open Court Publishing Co., Chicago, 1906. pp. 148.
- Contributo alla Dottrina delle Afasie*, pel PROF. L. BIANCHI. R. Tipografia Francesco Giannini & Figli, Napoli, 1906. pp. 32.
- Psychic and Economic Results of Man's Physical Uprightness*. T. W. HEINEMAN. Pasadena, Calif., 1906. pp. 103.
- Die Welt als Widerspruch*. G. F. KROMPHARDT. Niagara Falls, N. Y., 1906. pp. 23.
- Cesare Lombroso e La Filosofia Scientifico*. PROF. ENRICO MORSELLI. Torino, 1906. pp. 354-384.
- L'alcool e le malattie del sistema nervoso*, prolusione del PROF. L. BIANCHI. G. Civelli, Napoli, 1906. pp. 27.
- Anemia in Porto Rico*. Preliminary Report. San Juan, 1906. pp. 66.

---

#### REPORT OF THE RECENT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Naturalists and the American Philosophical Association was held at Columbia University, New York City, Dec. 27, 28, and 29, 1906. After listening to an address of welcome by Pres. Butler, the first regular session was held at 10.30 A. M., in the psychological lecture-room in Schermerhorn Hall. This session was devoted to a discussion of the subject: Organized Co-operation in Standardizing Psychological Tests. Opinion seemed to be almost unanimous as to the desirability of such standardizing, but there was some difference of opinion as to how best to accomplish it. Professor Angell thought it best to begin with the simpler tests, while Professor Judd would not limit the list to these. Professor Pillsburg suggested that first of all this standardization meant work, hard and long, for all our laboratories before any committee could undertake to prescribe what should be done. The question was left in the hands of a committee of seven to report on the advisability at a later session. Their report favored placing this work in the hands of a committee of five and it was so adopted.

On Thursday afternoon the papers were as follows: *Professor Simon Newcomb: The Estimation of Visual Space Magnitudes*. The speaker brought a wealth of fresh examples to illustrate the accuracy of esti-

mation of length, how we use the angle subtended by the object and yet are not accurate in our estimation of angles alone, and of the fact that we depend largely on internal images, by which he would mean what psychologists express by the subjective element in visual space-perception. Prof. Baldwin pointed out that instinct could furnish animals, such as the chick, with this subjective basis for accurate space perception. *F. Lyman Wells: A Scientific Criterion of Literary Merit.* Ten literary men of America were rated by the members of a graduate club of Columbia University. Some of the points graded were imagination, clearness, finish, euphony, and wholesomeness. Such a study tells us less about the men rated than of the men doing the rating. It also shows that this group of literary men is more homogeneous than the scientists studied in a like manner a few years ago. It tells us little of those falling in the middle group but more of those in the lower and higher. *George M. Stratton: The Photography of Ocular Movements.* The speaker uses the reflection of a point of light on the eye in recording ocular movements. Prof. Judd's excellent work, he feared, would lead to the inference that his method, the placing of a particle of white on the eye and photographing the movement of that, was the only method possible. Actual negatives were used as slides to show the irregular movement of the eye in tracing a square, a circle, an imaginary circle, etc. In discussion Prof. Judd maintained that his method allowed of better interpretation of results. *Raymond Dodge: Minimum Exposure in Experimental Studies of Reading.* It is a mistake to reduce exposure times in reading tests. Eye movement is relatively slow. Reduced time does not necessarily limit physiological excitation and the mental processes are not thereby made simple and parallel. Illumination of the pre- and post-exposure fields may modify results. *J. Carleton Bell: Studies in Binocular Depth Perception.* The tests were made in the Harvard laboratory by means of two dots of light which by means of screws seemed to approach the subject as they were brought together or recede as they were separated, and could be combined stereoscopically. The author concludes that binocular depth perception is a function of accommodation and convergence. In many cases, however, there is a greater or less dissociation of the two when accommodation plays the chief rôle. The subject deserves more attention than it has hitherto received.

Following a brief recess came the address of the President of the Psychological Association, *James R. Angell*, subject: *The Province of Functional Psychology.* At present one can do little more than state a programme, and delimit the scope of this kind of psychology. It is chiefly an attitude of mind. Really it is as old as Aristotle, Darwin and Spencer. Its chief contrast with Structural Psychology is in the fact that the latter deals with states of consciousness which for its analysis are more or less artificial. Structure can never be twice the same while function may be. The *why* and *how* are always implied in the *what*, so that structural may include only a part of the problem of psychology while functional more easily includes all three questions. Biology has given a more and more prominent place to mind. Pedagogy finds much more that is useful in looking at mind from the functional point of view. So also does mental Hygiene and Psychiatry. The recent and large amount of work done in Animal Psychology on the subjects of Instinct, the senses of animals and modifiability, form a significant chapter in functional psychology. Human Genetic Psychology adds another chapter in its attempts at a longitudinal section of consciousness and a correlation of this with growth. The leaning of the Functionalists toward Biology is well

calculated, of course, to arouse the ire of the pure psychologists and yet Functionalism deals with that which is vital to the organism. The fundamental conscious utilities are instinct, the short circuit algedonic, and the long circuit algedonic, reactions. The author omitted most of his detailed classifications which illustrate his notion of the usefulness here of the functional point of view. The problem of mind and body he would regard as largely methodological. Behavior and control is the chief point of interest in the living organism. The functional point of view is calculated to unify and make more nearly one many of our subjects of study which now seem so far apart. *Charles H. Johnston: Feeling Analysis and Experimentation.* The meagre result obtained in our attempts at analysis of feeling has been due to the over-emphasis of the cognitive side as well as to the fact that we have viewed the feelings from the structural point of view and have depended too much on the analytic method. We do not know whether feeling (affective state) is an independent element, a complex process, or an accompaniment of something else. Yet we all mean somehow the same thing. The impression method seems most favored and yet our introspective data is not reliable. The pleasant and unpleasant category seems certain, from recent experiments which have largely been made to test Wundt's tridimensional theory. *John F. Shepard: Some Results of Experiments on Cerebral Circulation in Sleep.* Very sensitive brain plethysmographs were used. Marked changes in the curves were shown to be produced by awakening the subject or by simply disturbing him. There is some head movement during sleep and this modifies the curve. This was obviated by placing the head in a swing. The Traube-Hering breathing curve is very marked when the subject is asleep. The results were striking because they show a marked increase in brain volume with depth of sleep though there may be at first a slight decrease. *Stuart H. Rowe: The Difference Between a Habit and an Idea.* For practical application to teaching these should be sharply distinguished. The paper dealt with several contrasts which obtain between them. *George H. Mead: The Relation of Imitation to the Theory of Animal Perception.* Hobhouse's theory of Imitation was criticised. Perception in Animals seemed to involve considerable experience of kinæsthetic value. In making experiments to test for Imitation this should be taken into account. *John B. Watson* (reported by Mr. Carr): *Kinæsthetic Sensations: Their Rôle in the Reactions of White Rats to the Hampton Court Maze.* Rats were first taught to go through the maze and then their eyes removed. On being returned to the maze they showed no disturbance of any sort. The ears, vibrissæ, face, olfactory organs, soles of the feet—in fact, all the organs of the animals except those of kinæsthetic value—were removed or made useless. The animals showed little if any loss in ability to learn or relearn the maze. The maze was swept with air currents in different directions and cold and warm linings were placed at the places of turning but without effect. Quite a disturbance was caused however, by turning the maze through 90°, 180°, and 270°. This last is entirely in agreement with the present writer's work on English Sparrows and other birds. *H. S. Jennings: Habit Formation in the Starfish.* In order to get proof of habit formation one must, so to speak, corner the animal. This is very difficult with the starfish for the reason that it is so versatile, *i. e.*, it can accomplish the same thing in so many different ways. By not allowing it to right itself by turning under those rays which it was seen to use most habitually it was found possible to make it use others. This habit had only partially disintegrated after an interval of three or four days. *Robert M. Yerkes: Modifiability of Behavior in the Dancing Mouse.* By giving these ani-

mals an electric shock when they enter the wrong opening they may be taught to distinguish between openings surrounded by black or white cardboard. The males learned more rapidly. Red has not the same value for them as for us. Nine-tenths of all color tests on animals do not require color discrimination by the animals. The reviewer cannot at all agree with the statement that an electric shock is a better *motif* to use with animals than a natural degree of hunger. He is in hearty agreement with the standardizing of mazes to be used with animals. *James P. Porter: Further Study of Variability in Spiders.* This paper gave further material gathered since the report of a year ago and was illustrated with lantern slides.

At 3 P. M., on Friday, President Butler gave his address of welcome to the Philosophical and Psychological Associations in joint session. He emphasized the great need for careful practical work in these fields in view of the great waves of feeling which sweep at times over our democracy, and also that few know what real thinking is. Then followed the address of *Prof. James on "Men and Their Energies."* He referred to Prof. Sanford's insistence on the physician's attitude of mind and to the more adequate treatment which Prof. Janet has given to abnormal conditions because, for one reason, he has not expressed or thought them in the ready-made psychological terms. Few of us put forth all the effort of which we are capable. There are different levels, and habit fixes the amount of energy we expend. We can in physical effort get our second wind and a third and fourth. This is true of the mental life also. The stimuli of war, and of love, serve to move us to greater and greater effort. The letters of the Englishman in charge of the city of Delhi at the time of a siege illustrate in a striking manner the rising to higher and higher levels. Janet's psychoasthenics are examples from the field of pathology. The decisions, moral and otherwise, required of a city dweller demand an output of energy which is not at all called for from the countryman. Prof. James's European friend, who for many years had suffered from a collapse every fourth week finally set for himself the task of the Yoga ordeal. The speaker quoted at length from letters to describe the fasting, prayer, postures and reduction of breathing, etc. After one severe collapse there seems to have been a complete cure. It may be all self-suggestion, but he can now undergo the most trying hardships. In all the above considerations and many more the problems which face us are: (1) What are the problems of mental work? (2) What really are our powers and capabilities? and (3) What are the best means of unlocking these?

*I. Madison Bentley: The Effect of Distraction Upon the Intensity of Sensation.* So far as the experiment has been carried the effect has been an underestimation of both the loud and weak sound stimuli. *C. E. Seashore: Some Contributions to Tone-Psychology.* There is a surprisingly wide variation in Pitch discrimination. Subjects from college and high school are no better than grammar grade pupils. The determining factor is probably physiological. Musical training modifies it but little. The speaker made certain classifications several years ago; to representatives of some of these it is inadvisable to attempt to teach music at all. *E. H. Cameron: Tonal Reaction.* The apparatus consists of a diaphragm attached to a pen the vibrations of which are written on a moving paper strip. By means of a time line these vibrations may be measured. Subjects with and without musical training start low and waver about a tone which they are asked to sing. In imitating an organ-pipe tone they do the same. The effect of another tone sounded as they attempt to imitate is to render them more inaccurate.

At the dinner of the American Society of Naturalists and Affiliated Societies an excellent address was delivered by Dr. Davenport. After

reviewing the co-operative work by the scientific societies of the past the speaker made a plea for such at present in the wide field of Biology. First and incidentally, for the fixing of nomenclature; secondly, and of much more importance, for co-operation in the prosecution of research.

At another session of the Psychological Association the following papers were presented: *Eleanor Harris Rowland: A Proposed Method for Teaching Aesthetics.* The teaching of this subject in our colleges is in an unsatisfactory condition. If the subject is given some attention in the grades and high school, it receives so little in our colleges that the best among the students do not follow it further. In Boston there is a plan to be put into operation which will involve visits to the museum, the lending to colleges of works of art, and lectures to the students by museum officials and artists. The students are to see works of art and then discuss principles. *W. B. Pillsburg: An Attempt to Harmonize the Current Psychological Theories of Judgment.* There are four current theories. That of Brentano in which belief is the central factor. For Marvin it is equivalent to comparison. Again Judgment may be said to be a sort of evaluation; while the last tendency makes it identical with the ascription of meaning. The last three were shown to be much the same while belief is concomitant with judgment. Prof. Dewey's element of doubt was not considered by the speaker to be an important consideration. *Kate Gordon: A Classification of Perceptual Processes.* We are to get our basis for a new classification in the motor response. Intensity, extensity and duration of sensation are to be related to the same. Quality gets its character here also. Schneider's expansion and contraction theory was invoked as explaining much, but discussion did not seem to favor it. *A. H. Pierce: Imagery Illusions. The Non-Visual Character of the "Proof reader's Illusion."* The author criticised the explanation of the "Proof reader's Illusion" found in the usual psychological texts. For him such is not visual at all, but auditory or articulatory. The phrase Imagery Illusions was proposed. *R. S. Woodworth: Non-Sensory Components in Sense Perception.* The way a subject sees the stair-case figure is not due to eye-movement, to the part fixated or to the eye-balls. This is true of other equivocal figures. Subjects agree in saying that preceding images do have a determining influence. Hence what is seen is non-sensory, it is a percept quality and is further illustrated by the way we perceive size, distance, and various rhythms. A "Mental Reaction Theory" was proposed to explain how we get this peculiar quality. It is not the result of motor response or a synthesis of sensations. This theory is probable from a consideration of brain structure. *E. L. Thorndike: The Mental Antecedents of Voluntary Movements.* Any mental state may be the antecedent. The opponents to this view were asked to consider the following: What sort of images do you have when you will not to perform an act? Suppose you will to move your eyes in a straight line across the page. You never have done so and never can. Will to copy several pages of a book or article you have written. What is antecedent to involuntary movements? The view upheld by the other side makes voluntary and involuntary movements radically different. Considerable and interesting discussion was called forth by the last four papers read.

Receptions were tendered the visiting scientists by the President and Trustees of Columbia University, and by the College of the City of New York, in the splendid new buildings of the latter. On Saturday afternoon, the unveiling of ten marble busts of pioneers in American Science at the American Museum of Natural History and a reception in the evening formed a fitting close to a most profitable and enjoyable series of meetings.

JAMES P. PORTER.